

FISCAL NOTE

SB 2243 - HB 2317

February 11, 2002

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires a vision examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist for children entering public school. Such requirement shall be promulgated by rule by the State Board of Education. The administrative regulations shall require evidence that a vision examination has been performed. This evidence shall be submitted to the school no later than January 1 of the first year that the child is enrolled in a public school, public preschool, or Head Start program.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant

Estimate assumes:

- An increase in state expenditures associated with revising, printing and distributing State Board rule 0520-1-3-.08(2). However, such increase is estimated to be not significant.
- An increase in local education agency expenditures associated with the additional record keeping. However, such increase is estimated to be not significant.
- TennCare is not required to pay for vision services that are not medically necessary. Any services required by the bill provided by optometrists or ophthalmologists to students on TennCare would not be eligible for reimbursement.
- The Department of Health does not utilize optometrists or ophthalmologists to perform vision screening and are not required to by the bill.
- Cost resulting from the bill would for the most part be incurred by private health insurance plans that cover such exams and parents.

Note: Current State Board of Education rule provides for the following licensed health professionals who can conduct the required physical examination: doctor of medicine, osteopathic physician, certified nurse practitioner, or a trained public health nurse. The current physical examination, including vision screening, is required by the first day of school.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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